

PATENT SPECIFICATION

183,417

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Hand Swabs.

We, THE BUFFALO SPECIALTY COMPANY, a corporation existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York, United States of America, having its principal place of business at Nos. 375 and 377, Ellicott Street, in the City of Buffalo, County of Erie, State of New York, United States of America, Specialty Manufacturers, Assignees of HENRY VICTOR SCHAEDEL, of No. 969, Fillmore Avenue, in the City of Buffalo, County of Erie, State of New York, United States of America, Factory Superintendent, a citizen of the United States of America, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

Our invention relates to an improved hand swab and more particularly to a polishing swab adapted to be treated or saturated with a polishing substance.

In known rubbing or polishing devices it has been proposed to utilize a flexible structure of fabric which was folded centrally of its length and detachably applied to a block or body adapted to receive an operating handle; the said flexible fabric structure being of such a character as to furnish fringes on each side thereof so that when applied to the block or body and secured by hooks and eyes and spaced spigot and socket members the fringes assume a depending attitude and constitute the actual rubbing or polishing portion of the device. In connection with foldable brush structures there have been other proposals wherein tufts or strands of hair *etc.* are interlaced with threads of washable material and made in a length suitable for being affixed to a piece of washable material adapted for being folded and rolled so as to serve as a handle. It has also been proposed to construct brushes, mats and the like by coiling or rolling or folding upon itself a stock of leather, canvas or

the like suitable flexible material carrying tufts of bristles, wires or the like, the stock being formed of two bands whereof the one is reeved through slots in the other and looped for the reception of the tufts and when drawn taut prevents the tufts from being pulled outwardly.

The device according to the present invention comprises a flexible fabric structure of the kind above referred to which is folded upon itself and provided with means for connecting the folds thereof together so as to furnish a rubbing and polishing swab which can be conveniently gripped by the hand. The said flexible structure or element comprises preferably strips or pieces of fibrous material such as cotton or the like and threads or strings of cotton or other material the strips of material being doubled longitudinally and sewn together to form a loop. The arrangement is such that the threads or strings are secured between thicknesses formed by the strips or pieces so that when the latter are doubled and formed into a loop a smooth interior is furnished, the loop being closed at one end. Fastening means are provided at intervals in the length of the said element adapted to effect the connection together of the adjacent folds thereof such fastening means being arranged at opposite sides of the flexible element so as to permit the folding of said element upon itself at either side thereof. The said flexible element may be provided with a padded portion along its upper edge. A filler adapted for folding with the said element may be provided for insertion in the loop thereof. In folding the element one end portion may be folded over the intermediate portion and the other end over the first mentioned end portion the fastenings being arranged so as to connect the folds together the connected loop portions thus furnishing a hand grip.

Having stated the chief features of the

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invention same will now be more fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figs. 1 and 2 are perspective views of the swab before being folded, the views being taken from opposite ends thereof.

Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view of the folded swab.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the swab folded in an opposite direction to that shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged transverse section taken on line 5—5, Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a detached perspective view of the flexible strip or filler adapted to be inserted into the loop portion of the swab.

The swab is preferably formed of strips or pieces of fibrous material 7, such as cotton or the like, and threads or strings of cotton or other material 8 arranged in regular formation to which said strips or pieces of cotton or other material are sewed, as at 9. This provides an elongated flexible element with strips of material sewed to opposite sides, and this flexible element is folded or doubled upon itself longitudinally as at 10 and sewed together, to form a loop 11 which extends from one end of said flexible element, or what may be termed "swab," to the other. The strips of cotton or other material line the threads within the loop and face the same around the loop so that said threads are fully concealed at the loop portion of the swab and the exterior and interior of the loop is therefore provided with smooth surfaces. One end of the loop portion is closed, as at 12. Thus constructed, the swab has threads hanging from the loop portion thereof and these threads form a brush-like lower portion 13, which is adapted to be treated or saturated with a polishing fluid, and as the entire mopping element is constructed of fibrous material in thread or string form and in sheet or strip form secured to the threads or strings thereof, it possesses capillary attraction and becomes saturated throughout with polishing fluid.

It will be apparent that non-fibrous material may be substituted for the pieces or strips of cotton 9 and this may be found desirable in some instances for the reason that the loop portion serves as the handle and, when so constructed, will not become saturated with polishing fluid; the soiling of the hands in using the swab being thereby prevented.

In the loop portion 11 of the swab thus formed, we preferably insert a flexible strip of metal 14, or other suitable material, and fold the swab upon itself in the manner shown in Fig. 3. In order to retain the swab in folded condition,

suitable fasteners are provided. We preferably employ what are generally termed "snap fasteners" having two parts 15, 16, the parts 15 being the male or ball parts, and the parts 16 the female or socket parts.

A convenient arrangement for fastening the folds of the swab together is shown in the drawings, in which the ball parts 15 of the fasteners are secured to opposite sides of the loop portion 11, and between said ball parts 15 the socket parts 16 are secured to opposite sides of the loop portion, the socket parts at each side being spaced from each other and from the ball parts 15 of the fasteners at the same side of the loop portion.

In order to form our improved hand swab, we preferably fold the elongated or swab element twice, the first fold being formed at 17 and the second at 18, thus forming three folds or stretches 19, 20 and 21, the middle fold or stretch 19 in the said element and the fold or stretch 21 last folded being at the outer side of the completed hand swab and enclosing the centre fold or stretch 20. When folding the swab or swab element upon itself, the two ball parts 15 at one side of the loop portion 11 are forced into co-acting socket parts 16, one secured to the same side of the loop portion 11 and the other to the opposite side thereof, said socket parts being brought into direct alinement with said ball parts when folding the swab or swab element upon itself. The swab thus folded forms a comparatively wide brush part and the three folds or stretches of the loop portion 11 form a handle which may be conveniently grasped by the hand so that the brush portion may be moved over the surface to be polished and be forced into depressions in the surface and an even gloss or polish imparted to all parts of the surface.

While we have shown and illustrated ball and socket fasteners, generally referred to as "snap fasteners," any other form of fasteners suitable for the purpose intended may be substituted therefor.

The flexible metal strip 14 forced into the loop portion 11 of the swab or swab element retains the folds of said loop portion in somewhat separated condition, as clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4, and provides a convenient hand grip. If desired, however, this flexible strip may be dispensed with, in which case the folds of the loop portion will be brought close together. In either case, a practical hand grip is provided. It has, however, been found by experience that the flexible metallic strip or flexible filler, as it may

be termed, will retain the hand grip in proper form under all conditions of use.

In a hand swab of this kind having the elongated swab or swab element folded upon itself to bring three thicknesses of the string or brush portion together, the threads or brush portion spread outwardly when in use, with the result that the threads at the inner region of the brush portion will become worn quicker than those extending outwardly, as they are subjected to greater pressure. When, therefore, it is found that the threads occupying the inner region of the brush portion become worn, the fasteners may be separated to bring the swab back to elongated condition and the swab be then reversed upon itself, in which case the ball parts of the fasteners at the other side of the loop portion will be brought in line with the remaining socket parts of the fasteners, and when forced into them will retain the three stretches of the loop portion in connected condition to form the hand grip, as before.

When reversing the folds of the swab the flexible filler member may be removed and reversed within the loop. This, however, is not absolutely necessary, as said filler may be bent in a reverse manner while in the loop. However, as shown in Fig. 6, the filler member or flexible strip 14 is preferably bent slightly before inserting the same in the loop portion of the swab, and when so bent it may be found desirable to reverse the filler member within the loop portion, preparatory to reversing the folds of the swab. When the folds of the swab are reversed, the worn threads will be at the outside of the swab while the longer threads, originally at the outside of the swab, will occupy the inner region of the same. Reversing of the folds may be continued whenever it is found that the threads at the inner region become shorter than the threads of the outside of the swab, until the brush portion of the swab is worn to an extent that it becomes ineffective for polishing purposes.

While we have shown a loop portion along the upper edge of the swab, such loop portion is only necessary when a flexible filler, such as shown at 14, is employed. Therefore, if desired, the swab may be formed with a padded portion along its upper edge, which in reality the loop portion is. In its broadest sense the padded or loop portion may be considered as the head of the swab, and when

using the term "head" in the claims, it is intended to mean a loop portion such as shown; a padded portion without the loop extending therethrough, or any other construction whereby the threads or strings 8 are united or connected together in swab form.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of our said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

1. A swab or polishing device composed of a flexible structure or element of the kind herein specified characterized by the element being folded upon itself and the folds thereof connected together to constitute a head which can be conveniently gripped by the hand, for the purposes specified.

2. A swab or polishing device according to the preceding claim in which the fastening means are arranged at opposite sides of the flexible structure or element; the arrangement being such as to permit of the said element being folded upon itself at either side thereof.

3. A swab or polishing device according to either of the above claims whereof the flexible structure or element is provided with a padded portion along its upper edge for the purposes specified.

4. A swab or polishing device according to any of the preceding claims in which the foldable elongated flexible structure element is provided with a loop upper portion and a flexible filler for said loop portion adapted to be folded with the said elongated flexible element.

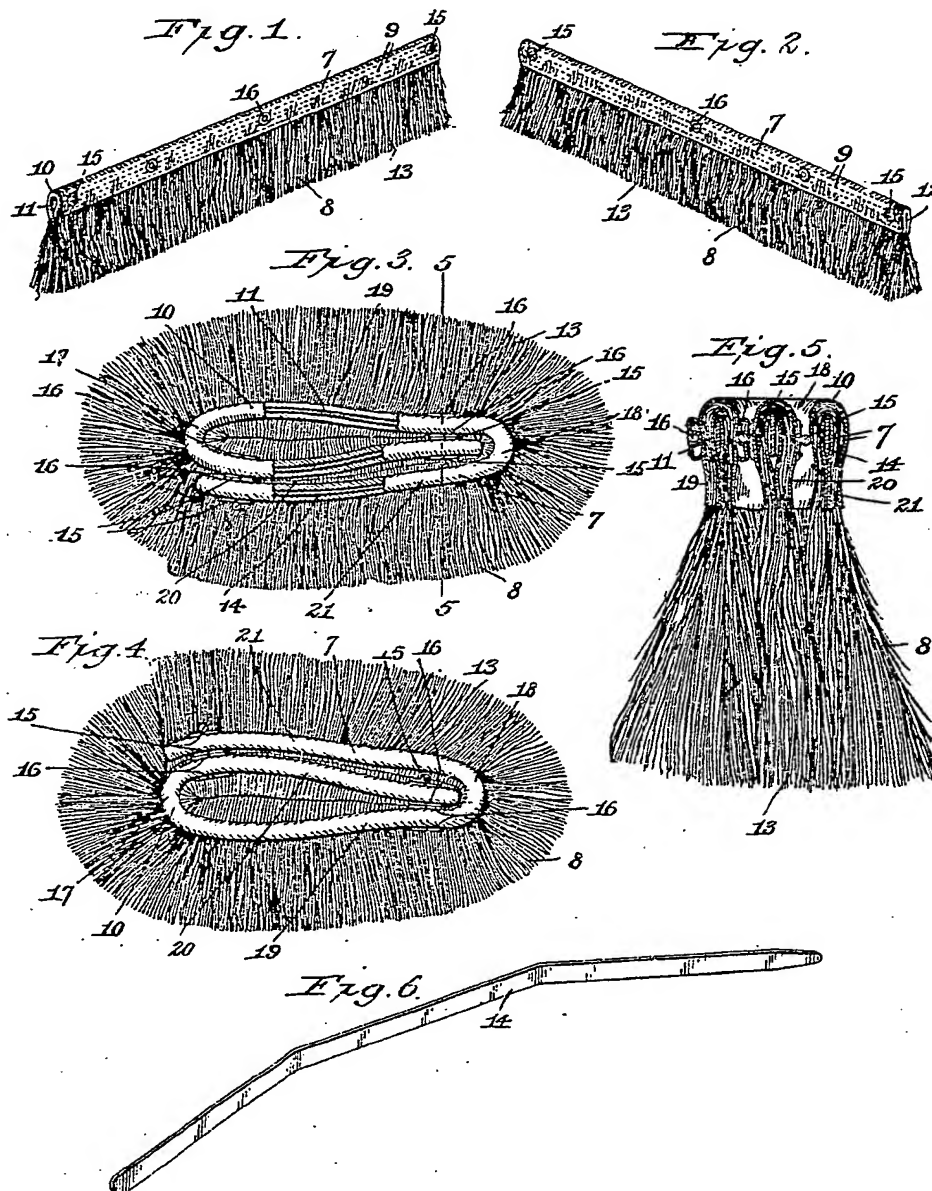
5. A swab or polishing device according to any of the above claims in which the elongated flexible element is adapted to be folded with one end portion over the intermediate portion and the other end over the first mentioned end portion and provided with coacting fastening means for connecting the same together and furnishing a hand grip.

6. A swab or polishing device having its parts constructed assembled or arranged and adapted for operation substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings for the purposes specified.

Dated this 21st day of November, 1921.

MCKENNA & Co.,
31/34, Basinghall Street, E.C. 2,
Applicants' Agents.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]



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